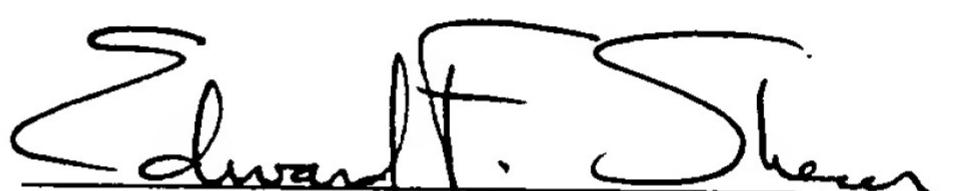


The different classifications of the Group I, II, and III claims have been noted, but it is felt that these classifications are not necessarily conclusive on the question of restriction and election. It is believed that the Examiner is trying to draw too fine a line of distinction and that when all the facts are taken into account, the Group II and Group III claims should remain in this application. In any event, the Group I claims have been elected and, hence, claims 1-20 are entitled to action on their merits.

It is believed that an action of the merits is in order and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that I have a reasonable basis to expect that this correspondence will be deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage affixed and addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 4, 2002.

M. G. MARRON
(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Mia G. Marron
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)